Diversion of foodgrains in Delhi

844. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge stocks of foodgrains diverted by the fair price shops under the Public Distribution System in Delhi have recently been detected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against fair price shop owners and the Government officials involved in this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A raid was conducted by the Food and Supply Department, Government of NCT of Delhi on 18.02.2008 at two godowns situated at Shop No. 3 & 4, F-Block Market, Dakshin Puri, Delhi and approximately 2175 bags of Specified Food Articles (SFAs) meant for TPDS were found lying in them.

(c) All the concerned FPSs and godowns were immediately sealed and subsequently licenses of 11 FPS have been suspended by the concerned Assistant Commissioner. An FIR was lodged with the police on 19.02.2008 and five persons have been arrested in the case.

Malls and retail stores in the country

†845. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of malls and big retail stores opened in the country during the last two years;

(b) the location of these malls and retail stores;

(c) whether small time shopkeepers have suffered due to opening of these malls and retail stores; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to ensure the livelihood of the small time shopkeepers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Organised retailers register their shops/malls with concerned authorities in States/UT Governments in respect of the commodities to be sold by them. The Central Government do not maintain data in this regard.

(c) and (d) The share of organized retailing in the total retail trade is very small. No studies have been carried out in the past to assess the impact of opening of malls and big retail stores on the small time shopkeepers. However, the Government has awarded a study to International

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.